

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

We are pleased to announce that in addition, as from today, Sunday 13 June 2004, the weekly news bulletin will also be available on echolink. Echolink users can click on to ZS6FCS. Echolink users are invited to, where possible, relay the bulletin on their local repeaters when HF conditions are not favourable.

Comments or suggestions will be appreciated by sending an e-mail to: zs6fcs@telkomsa.net.

We are grateful to Chris, ZS6FCS, for making this service available to Sarlnews.

SILENT KEYS

News was received that Paddy Lynn had passed away at the age of 101 years!! He died on the 4th of May in Durban. Years ago he virtually ran the Telecoms in the then Rhodesia and did a very good job. He had been to a number of places and held the call signs ZD6JC, G3NLA, ZE1AA, Z21A and ZS5JSC during his lifetime. Unfortunately we know nothing more about him but he must have had an interesting and full amateur radio career. Our condolences to his relatives and friends.

It is with regret that the passing of OM Lawrence Lightbody, ZS6BBU, is announced. Lawrence passed away after a short sickbed. Lawrence was a dear friend and Honorary Life Member of the East Rand Radio club, being involved in Amateur Radio using the callsign of ZS6BBU for 44 years. To his wife Corrie, other relatives and friends our sincerest condolences. 73 Lawrence.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

FREQUENCY ALLOCATION FOR APRS

CALLING ALL VISUALLY IMPAIRED HAMS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp

not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

FREQUENCY ALLOCATION FOR APRS

With the clearing of repeater inputs at the upper end of the 144 MHz section of the 2 metre band, an opportunity arises to bring the SARL 2 m bandplan more in line with IARU Region 1 recommendations.

Effective immediately, the section of the band from 144,800 MHz to 144,975 MHz will be allocated to unmanned MGM (Machine Generated Modes) services, which include packet and APRS traffic, with 144,800 being the “centre of activity” for APRS.

To optimise usage, this band sector is based on a 12,5 KHz channel spacing, and users are expected to respect this IARU recommendation.

Please also note that the SA exclusive APRS allocation at 145,550 to 145,587 5 will fall away as it is not an IARU recommendation for this part of the band. Current users are requested to make plans to move to the approved band sector.

Further food for thought in respect of IARU bandplan compliance, is that in 1996, at Tel Aviv, a decision was made that all unmanned packet and digital access points not in the recommended band sector must cease operation before December 1997. Obviously we have not conformed with these recommendations in SA. The ever increasing demand for spectrum within our own ranks necessitates that we start making an effort to pull ourselves in line with the well planned IARU recommendations within the next year or so.

Constructive comment from SARL members in respect of any of our bandplans will be welcomed.

CALLING ALL VISUALLY IMPAIRED HAMS

At present there is not a database of hams who are visually impaired. Dave, ZS1LDH, would like to contact all visually impaired hams who would like to receive Radio ZS in tape format from Tape Aids. He is in the process of negotiating with Tape Aids for this service. If you are interested, please contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386. I repeat, 021-761-8386 or by emailing Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on zs1ct@qsl.net. Please give your name, call sign, postal address, telephone number and email address.

SARL KIDS DAY

The second SARL Kids Day for 2004 will take place on Youth Day, Wednesday 16 June starting at 09:00 and ending at 13:00 CAT. Activity will be on 40, 20 and 2 metres. Visit the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za and look at the various

suggestions that Chris ZS6COG has come up with. Join in on Wednesday and let the young people experience amateur radio.

RADIO ZS

The editor of Radio ZS is busy with the May/June issue and urgently requires material for publication. It can be of a technical or general nature, either in English or Afrikaans. Articles can be sent in MS Word, WordPerfect or text format to radiozs@sarl.org.za or by normal mail to the call book address of Dennis, ZS4BS.

HF NEWSLETTER

HF Happenings, the weekly HF newsletter, has this week reached issue number 100. The newsletter is distributed by e-mail and at present is sent to 178 addresses here in South Africa as well as overseas. It is also available on the SARL website. If you would like to receive HF Happenings via email, please send an e-mail request to zs4bs@netactive.co.za

MEGA FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

The next Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria will be on 26 June at the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club, on the corner of University and Lynnwood Roads. The starting time is 09:30 and sellers are requested not to arrive before 08:30. As usual, there will be lots to eat and drink. If you need more information or would like to book a table, please contact Almero ZR6RY on (012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that we are now firmly caught in the fast declining cycle 23. Propagation conditions were bad during the past week and an improvement during the coming week does not look good. DX conditions may be reasonable up to the 14th June. The sunspot number was only 31,6 as against the 37,9 of last week. With such a low sunspot number and a weak possibility of inflow of coronal mass towards the earth, weak propagation conditions are forecasted. The 20 m band will still remain the reliable band.

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

15 June, send synopsis of proposed papers to be read at AMSATCON2004 which will be held on 24 July at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban to saamsat@intekom.co.za. Registration for the one day conference will be R50 for SA AMSAT and SARL members. The fee for students is R35 and for non-members R100. 16th June, Kid's Day. 16th June, Fox Hunt at the Oakdale Amateur Radio Club, Bellville; 26th June Mega Fleamarket in Pretoria; 30th June the last day to book for the steam train visit to the Koster Mamboer Festival on 5 September. Contact Johanna Harris at 011-814-2121 during office hours to confirm bookings; 2nd October, Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club which will start at 08:00.

SARL membership fees can now be paid by means of credit cards, electronic

transfer or direct deposit into the SARL bank account. The SARL bank account details are: STANDARD BANK KILLARNEY - BRANCH CODE 00 72 05 - Account number 001 682 059. Please fax a copy of the deposit slip to the SARL office at 011 675 2793 in case of a direct deposit.

Donations for the SARL's IARU membership fund may be transferred electronically or paid into the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust account at ABSA, account number 560 142 722, branch code 335-645. Please indicate IARU donation and fax the deposit slip to 012 991 5651 or mail the details with address information to P O Box 90438, Garsfontein 0041.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX